

Leicester, Mass., June 16. 1856.
(Tuesday.)

Dear Mr. Webb -

By the Ship "Enoch Train" - one of Train

& Co's Line - which sailed from Boston last

Thursday, I sent you a package containing a

quantity of each of 2 pamphlets - the one being

No. 18. of our Series of Tracts, & the other a pamphlet

bringg. the history (so to speak) of our Mass. th

Anti-Slavery Society down to the present time.

Having published no annual pamphlet for 3

yrs. not since E. Quincy's Series of Reports

were transferred to the Am. A. S. Co., the

Mass. th Society thought it best to preserve

this record of their meetings, doings, officers,

receipts & expenditures. I hope the parcel

will reach you safely. The steamer Train kindly

take it free of charge. It is addressed to

S. R. Graves in care, in Liverpool. -

The Tract (No. 18.) is mainly a Record of

Cases under the Fugitive Slave Law. It is

my work. I spent upon it many an hour,

many a day, and took all pains to have it

correct. But it is necessarily succinct & even

meagre, as I felt continually obliged to limit

myself as much as possible, in order not to

make the tract too bulky. You will have

some trouble, I am sorry to say, & be put to

some expense, doubtless, in distributing these pamphlets; the latter however will make a charge in your account with us.

Pillsbury is again at home, safe and sound - in very good spirits, apparently in tolerable health; certainly looking better than I expected to see him, and having borne the voyage home very well. He arrived early one forenoon (Thursday), and visited that afternoon to Concord, N.H., to his family, and remained with them until the following Wednesday. That was the 2^d day of our N. England Convention - the best of all the year's Anti-Slavery meetings. He then came to Boston, - sat quietly in the Convention during the day, and in the evening spoke for an hour, in great Faneuil Hall, where we had a beautiful (for us plain folks) & exceedingly pleasant Collation or Festival, & as a welcome to him, and as a Social Reunion of N. England Abolitionists. The tables, seats, & all appendages, being already in the hall, for the purpose of accommodating the Unitarian Festival (the day previous), and the Universalist Festival (the day following), enabled our worthy provider to accommodate us, at a much more reasonable charge than could have been otherwise, - which I mention, that you may not charge us with extravagance, and that no one may say "why was this waste?" About six hundred persons sat down to the tables, and remained from 4 P.M. until nearly 11. It was a very pleasant & interesting occasion. The Liberator of this week will doubtless have the full report of it.

We are living in stirring times, and amidst

painful scenes. Kansas is subjecting at to the
Slave Power. It is given over to all profanities,
indecentes, outrages, & enormities which never
fail to herald, accompany, & follow the march of
Slavery. A large company of desperadoes, gathered
in Alabama & Georgia, and receiving ~~accessions~~ by the
way, led on by a Major Buford, arrived in Kansas
a month or 6 weeks since. They came with the
avowed purpose of driving out, by force, the Free State
Letters, and of subjecting the territory to the exclusive
dominion of the slaveholders. On arriving on the
border of Kansas, one of their number was, by President
Pierce, appointed United States Marshal for the District
of Kansas! a ferocious, bloody minded, & desperate
character, as a slaveholder of such a mission needs
must be. He immediately summoned the rest of
the Alabama gang to act as his posse
comitatus, and caused them to be armed with
United States muskets! But you will see, ~~and~~
~~best~~ in the American papers, fuller particulars
than I have time to write. This man with his
posse marched to Lawrence, took several leading
men prisoners - Cannonaded the hotel & burnt it to
the ground - destroyed 2 printing offices, with all
their contents - burnt Gen. Robinson's house, -
entered all the houses, stealing every thing they could
carry off - stealing horses, &c. - destroying large quantities
of property not easily moveable, - and driving off

the inhabitants, killing several, and (it is said) violating some of the women. "We shall have full particulars, by & by. All this is directly & entirely chargeable to Franklin Pierce & the U. S. Government. Had ~~they~~ ^{he} protected the Kanza's ~~letters~~, in their persons & property, nothing of the kind ~~could~~ ^{he & his Govt.} have happened. Had ~~they~~ done nothing, stood neutral, folded their arms & looked on, it would not have happened. Against these poverty-stricken & half-starved Alabamians, and against the Border Ruffians of Missouri, the Kanza's people, both men and women, were prepared to defend themselves and I sincerely believe would have made a firm and probably a successful resistance. But when these hungry and desperate blood-hounds ~~ever~~ came clothed with United States Authority, led by a United States officer, and armed by United States ~~privates~~ ^{with} weapons, - what could they do? Resistance in, entirely useles. Moreover, the wretch, Pierce (I cannot, if he is President, speak of him in any milder terms, for none such would describe him) had ordered from Fort Leavenworth a considerable body of regular U. S. troops to Lawrence. Their Commander now ~~gave~~ - said he could give - no help, & no protection even, to the citizens of Lawrence. His orders were to act ~~when~~ ^{when} called upon by Governor Shannon, (a poor creature of F. Pierce's), and he could do nothing until said Gov. S. directed. Gov. S. positively refused to order them to give any protection to the

people of Lawrence. It was well known that, if the Lawrence people lifted a finger to resist the U. S. Marshal, or Sheriff Jones, or the lawless ^{U. S. Marshal to the Territorial Sheriff} doings of their infamous posse, (for said posse was transferred from one to the other, as found convenient) the Governor would then order the U. S. troops to sustain the U. S. Marshal. Such was the scheme (tis useless to apply epithets to such conduct) concocted at Washington emanating from such Northern men as Caleb Cushing, Stephen A. Douglas, and Franklin Pierce, and readily accepted by the desperate & unprincipled Southerners, whose leaders in the bloody work are Atchison and Stringfellow of Missouri, Judge LeCompte, & others.

The Committee of the House of Representatives, Messrs. Howard, Sherman & Oliver have been in Kansas, perhaps two months, collecting evidence as to the election of Gen. Whitfield, returned to Congress as Delegate from Kansas, and well known to have been elected by hordes of men from Missouri, going over into Kansas, ^{at the time of the election,} and out-voting the regular inhabitants, - driving away the citizens, taking possession of the polls, &c.

This Committee has collected a vast mass of testimony, & transmitted it to Washington, and it will be published, - but all too late to effect anything, & all I fear. Should the Ho: of Representatives take

any effective step, (and I have not the least
belief that they will), the Senate is utterly
pro-slavery, and would refuse to co-operate;
and, if otherwise, Pierce would of course
veto anything that displeased the Slaveholders.
The most that the House will do, I presume, is
to reject Whitfield, & order a new election, - a
barren triumph, under the circumstances; for
the territory being now utterly subjugated,
and the ~~two~~ avenues to a free vote
everywhere opened, he would be immediately
re-elected. The triumph of the Slave Power
in Kansas is complete. How long to last,

{ the Committee had ~~decided~~
is yet in the future. { insulted, beaten, threatened
in every way by the Buffaloes.

Meanwhile, comes the case of Charles
Sumner, in the United States Senate. You
will have read all about it long before this
reaches you, and I will not attempt any
particulars. I am happy to inform you
that he is recovering, though very slowly. Three
months have now elapsed, and he has not yet
been allowed, by his physicians, to leave his
room. He has had a very narrow escape
with his life. This is certain; though the
administration prints have, many of
them, pretended to believe that he was not
seriously hurt. They knew they lied.

No two men could have behaved better
in the circumstances than the two Mapaetum-
Letti Senators have behaved; and it is most
pleasant & encouraging to see how extensively they
are sustained and thanked at home & through
the Northern States. The Northern feeling is more
than ever aroused, and the North is coming, by
slow degrees, to the point of definite action.

Thousands are aroused, who never were before.
Men, who have been very much opposed to Rep.
Pruyn & Wilson, now speak of them in terms
of respect & even admiration.

Wendell now, vigorously circulating a
Petition for dissolution of the Union. Our
people's strange to say, have not ~~seen~~ ^{ready for}
this ~~point~~ yet; at least, the ~~most~~ prominent &
so-called 'leading' men have not. But the ~~most~~
of the people are far ahead of them. The seeds
of truth are now rapidly germinating in a soil
fast warming, and something great & good
will, I think, burst into light & life ere long.

As a ~~very~~ one indication in the political world,
of the coming Event, look at the fact that, at the
great Democratic Presidential Nominating Convention,
(which met at Cincinnati last week), Franklin Pierce,
who has labored like a dog, & prostituted all the powers
of the Government for 2 years past, to get the nomination
for himself, was rejected - cast aside - pushed out

~~of the way~~; Stephen A. Douglas, who has been manoeuvring and labouring for himself in the most desperate manner - the author & mover of the whole ~~ka~~ = Nebraska Fraud, - fared no better, - he also pushed aside, and James Buchanan of Pennsylvania (a minister to England) has received the nomination! Buchanan is as servile as either of the others, and his administration (if elected) will be as corrupt as Pierce's has been, every whit; but he has not been mixed up with the villainies of the last 2 3 years set on foot by Cushing, Douglas, & Pierce and so they are dropped and he selected. Oh! a gnashing of teeth on the part of Douglas & Pierce, they can't either of them enjoy each other's sympathy even; for they both know that the other has been doing all in his power to supplant him.

Our people are now going through another
mad whirl of political excitement in electing a
President. Mr. John McLean of Ohio will
probably be the candidate of the Republican party.
He will be taken as most available, but is not a
man than an honest Abolitionist can honestly vote for.
His decisions, on the U.S. Supreme bench, have been uniformly
of a pro-slavery type, and his administration would be one
of compromises, and fawning to the South. Col. Fremont
had a good chance of the nomination, and is a clean
man; still I think McLean will get it. The nomination
is to be made in a convention at Philadelphia, the 17
instant.

instant. But I must stop, dear Mr. Newell. I don't know if you will
excuse you that I am
wrote off the addition to my letter, but a
distance off now, it gives me a
sober and cool view of
myself and my
present life.